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**PHILIPPINES**

## Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE) Amendment # 1

### Program/Activity Data

**Country/region:** Philippines/ASIA

**Title of Activity/Activity Number:** Investment Enabling Environment (INVEST)  
Activity

**Objective:** The aim of the INVEST activity is to reduce the cost of doing business and increase the flow of private Investments in the Philippines.

**Funding Begin:** October 1, 2011

**Funding End:** December 31, 2014

**Life of Project (LOP) amount:** \$3,480,807

**RCE prepared by:** John Avila

**Date:** 4 March 2014

**RCE amendment (Y/N):** Y

**Date of original RCE:** 30 June 2011

**Tracking No:** Asia 11-153

### Environmental action recommended:

Categorical Exclusion   X  

Negative Determination with Condition       

Positive Determination       

Deferral       

### Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this document, in accordance with Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 216 (22CFR216), is to provide a preliminary review of the reasonably foreseeable effects on the environment and provide a justification for categorical exclusion from an environmental examination for the new activities detailed below.

The purpose of this amendment is to:

- Increase in the amount of the Life of Project funding from 3,230,807 to \$3,480,807;
- Expand scope of activities to include support of National Competitive Council's (NCC) Livable Cities Design Challenge and work related to the USAID's selection of the Cities Development Initiative (CDI) next generation cities; and
- Extend the end date from September 30, 2014 to December 31, 2014

The scope and nature of all other activities as approved in the original RCE (ASIA-11-153) remain the same.

### **Activity Description**

INVEST Activity seeks to address the key constraints underlying the low level of private investment in the Philippines. Program activities aim to improve the investment and business climate by (i) lowering the transaction costs and reducing the cost of doing business involving both national and local level regulations and processes; and (ii) increasing the flow of private investment and number of business start-ups in the Philippines. The INVEST Activity initially provided \$3,230,807 in funding over three years. An additional \$250,000 will be added to the activity and the period of performance of the INVEST Project will be extended from September 30, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Increased funding will expand activities to support (i) the National Competitive Council's (NCC) Livable Cities Design Challenge; and (ii) the work related to the USAID's selection of the CDI next generation cities. The NCC cities design challenge is a planning and design competition among 20 pre-selected cities to enable them to better prepare for disaster risk reduction and promote environmental sustainability. This activity involves three phases lasting around 9 months, including participation in the Pacific Cities Sustainability Initiative Forum, workshops and mentoring, and the competition proper. INVEST will also provide logistical support for the selection of the next generation of CDI cities. An initial selection of cities was undertaken which will be followed by field assessments, consultations and other due diligence. After the final selection, USAID intends to enter into formal partnerships and develop action plans with the new CDI cities.

### **Justification for Categorical Exclusion Request**

The new activities financed under the INVEST Project include technical assistance for policy analysis, training, communications, studies, advocacy support, and other technical assistance support. These activities are not expected to have any impact on the environment thus no further environmental review is required. The INVEST Project thus qualifies as a categorical Exclusion pursuant to 22CFR 216.2(c)(i) and (2).

Specifically, interventions, as currently planned, fall into the following classes of action:

- (a) Education, technical assistance, and training (216.2(c)(2)(i)); and
- (b) Analyses, studies, workshops and meetings (216.2(c)(2)(iii)).

**Revisions**

If during the implementation, activities are considered outside of those described in this or the original document, an amendment shall be submitted. Pursuant to 22CFR216.3(a)(9), if new information become available which indicates that activities to be funded might have "major" or "significant" environmental impacts, this determination will be reviewed and revised by the originator of the projects and submitted to the Asia Bureau Environmental Officer for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared.



Drafted: JAvila 4 March 2014

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**Mission Approval**

Kevin Sharp cleared with edits Date: 3/4/2014  
Acting Chief, Office of Economic Development  
and Governance

Marian Cruz cleared with edits Date: 3/11/2014  
Deputy Mission Environmental Officer

Aaron Brownell cleared with edits Date: 3/19/2014  
Regional Environmental Officer for Asia  
and OAPA

Reed Aeschliman *RA* Date: 3 / 26 / 14  
Acting Mission Director

Approval: *John O Wilson* Date: 3/28/14  
John Wilson  
Bureau Environmental Officer

